

REMARKS

Claims 1-15 are presented for reconsideration.

In the Office Action, claims 1, 7, 8 and 10 were rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Hanz '780; claims 2-5 were rejected under 35 USC 103 as being unpatentable over Hanz '780 and applicant notes with appreciation that dependent claims 6, 9 and 11 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but were indicated as containing allowable subject matter.

By this amendment, claim 1 has been amended to further highlight the invention over the prior art and, in view of the amendments to claim 1, dependent claims 2, 5, 6, 8, 9 and 11 have also been amended in view of the changes in claim 1; new claims 12, 13 and 14 have been added, along with a new independent claim 15, which describes the invention in slightly different terms.

As illustrated in the drawings, particularly Figs. 4 and 5, the arm 6 of the present invention has at least a pair of insertion pieces which are angularly arranged so that when one of the insertion pieces of the pair is inserted in the insertion opening, the armrest is in one position and when the other of the pair is inserted, the armrest assumes a second position at an angle to the first position. As recited in the allowed dependent claims, such as claim 6, one of these positions is in the same orientation as the surface of the armrest. Preferably, the armrest has two pairs of insertion pieces, which are spaced apart the same spacing as the spacing of the insertion openings and, thus, the armrest can be assembled in various positions along the edge of the table top. In addition, the armrest preferably has grip holds, such as 9 shown in Fig. 2.

It is respectfully submitted that, contrary to the Examiner's contentions, Hanz does not teach or suggest the structure of claim 1. Hanz discloses a patient support 1 which has two insertion pieces 9 and 10 which are spaced apart and are received in openings, such as 11 and 12, at the end of the table top for the purpose of supporting the head and shoulders of a patient during an imaging process. While each of these insertion pieces has angled portions, it is submitted that the insertion pieces do not form at least one pair with the insertion pieces of the at least one pair being angularly arranged, as recited in independent

claim 1 and the dependent claims, such as 2-14. For these reasons, it is respectfully submitted that claim 1 is clearly not anticipated by Hanz. It is also submitted that claim 1 would not be obvious in view of Hanz, since there is no teaching or suggestion of arranging the insertion pieces in a pair, with the insertion pieces being angularly arranged relative to each other. It is noted that in Hanz, both insertion pieces have the same configuration and extend in parallel planes. Therefore, it is submitted that the subject matter of claim 1 would not be obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art without relying on applicant's disclosure to suggest the necessary modifications.

Dependent claims 2-5, 7, 8, 10, 13 and 14 are also patentably distinct over the prior art for the reasons that claim 1 is in view of the following. Contrary to the Examiner's contention, Hanz does not teach or suggest that the insertion pieces are tabs extending at right angles to each other, as recited in claims 2-5 and 9. As pointed out hereinabove, each of the insertion pieces 9 and 10 of Hanz have portions that lie in the same planes relative to each other and, therefore, they do not extend at an angle to each other. In addition, it is submitted that Hanz does not teach or suggest the plurality of insertion openings that are arranged in a row at an equal distance from one another along the edge of the top, particular the teaching of more than two, as recited in claim 14. Finally, it is submitted that, contrary to the Examiner's position, Hanz does not teach or suggest grip holes in the armrest. The ribs 2-4 are not grip holes, but are reinforcing members or ribs. It is submitted that the Examiner has stretched the teachings of this reference to infer that these are grip openings or holes, as recited in the claims, such as 4, 10 and 12. Thus, it is submitted that claims 1-14 are patentable over the teachings of Hanz and are allowable.

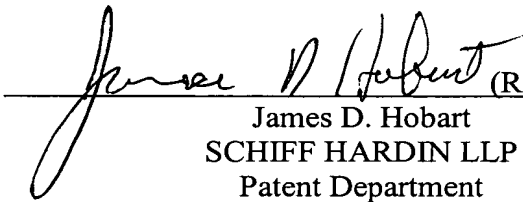
Newly-presented independent claim 15 recites the invention in slightly different terms, and it is respectfully submitted that none of the references of record teach or suggest a table top for a patient gurney having an armrest, said table top having at least one insertion opening provided on an edge of the table top, said armrest being provided with at least a pair of insertion pieces being angularly arranged to each other, one of the insertion pieces of the pair being inserted into the insertion opening to position the armrest in a first position on the table top and the other insertion piece of the pair being inserted in the insertion opening to position the armrest in a second position on the table top at an angle to

the first position. Thus, it is submitted that independent claim 15 is clearly patentable over the teachings of Hanz and allowable.

It is respectfully submitted that the remaining references cited by the Examiner do not teach or suggest the deficiencies with Hanz '780 and, therefore, claims 1-15 are clearly patentable over the references of record and are allowable.

In view of the amendments and explanations contained hereinabove, it is respectfully submitted that this application is now in condition for immediate formal allowance and further reconsideration to that end is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

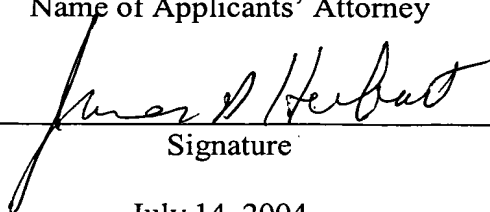


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